

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The Applicant thanks the Examiner for the Office Action, made final, dated June 13, 2007.

Claim Objections

The antecedent error in claims 1, 13 and 25 has been corrected.

Claim Rejections – 35 USC § 102(a)

The Applicant contests the rejection of obviousness in view of Torpey and Silverbrook (US 6,243,113).

In particular, the Applicant submits that Silverbrook does not qualify as prior art against the present application, either under 35 USC 102 or 103.

The present application is a continuation-in-part of earlier US Application No. 10/160,273 filed on June 4, 2002 (which is a continuation of US Application No. 09/112,767 filed on July 10, 1998 as confirmed by the PAIR database).

The subject-matter of the present claims was fully described in earlier US Application No. 10/160,273. Accordingly, the present application has an effective date at least as early as June 4, 2002.

Silverbrook (US 6,243,113) was published on June 5, 2001.

The present application and Silverbrook (US 6,243,113) are applications by the “same person” – Kia Silverbrook. Accordingly, Silverbrook (US 6,243,113) does not qualify as prior art within the meaning of 35 USC 102(a) or 102(c).

Neither does Silverbrook (US 6,243,113) qualify as prior art within the meaning of 35 USC 102(b), because it was published less than one year before the effective filing date of the present application.

Accordingly, since Silverbrook (US 6,243,113) does not qualify as prior art within the meaning of 35 USC 102, it cannot be used to allege obviousness under 35 USC 103.

In view of the fact that Silverbrook (US 6,243,113) does not qualify as prior art against the present application, it is submitted that the Examiner's rejection of obviousness is improper and should be withdrawn. It is further submitted that the finality of the recent Office Action should also be withdrawn.

Specification

The Applicant has amended pages 1 to 5 of the specification by deleting the paragraphs entitled "Cross-references to related applications" and replacing them with new updated paragraphs. The US application numbers have merely been replaced by their corresponding US grant numbers, where applicable. The Applicant submits that these amendments introduce no new matter.

It is respectfully submitted that all of the Examiner's objections have been successfully traversed. Accordingly, it is submitted that the application is now in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and allowance of the application is courteously solicited.

Very respectfully,

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